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Revision: 2

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS PRACTICAL SKILL HEMORRHAGE CONTROL BANDAGING

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Purpose:		Indications:	
To control bleeding from an open wound		Patients who present with bleeding, open wounds	
To prevent further contamination of an open wound		•	
Advantages:	Disadvantages:	Complications:	Contraindications:
Prevents further blood loss	Obscures view of wound	Injury to surrounding soft	None
Decreases opportunities for	Continued hemorrhage	tissue	
wound contamination	into a bulky dressing may	Circumferential bandage may	
	go unrecognized	become venous tourniquet if	
		soft tissue swelling occurs	

Expose wound and assess potential damage

Control hemorrhage with direct pressure and elevation of site (if possible)

Assess distal circulation, sensation and movement if wound is on extremity or potentially involves spinal cord

Maintaining sterility, apply gauze dressing pad, covering entire wound

Secure dressing pad with tape or roller bandage, applying gentle even pressure

Monitor distal circulation, sensation and movement after bandaging wounds on an extremity

Splint area as necessary to prevent motion

Continue to evaluate patient's condition